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18/01/2001

### New Banknote Good News for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Ottawa - January 18, 2001** - The Canadian Human Rights Commission applauded yesterday's release of a new series of banknotes by the Bank of Canada as welcome news for the blind and visually impaired.

"This is a great day for the blind and visually impaired, and I congratulate the Bank of Canada for seizing the opportunity to accommodate their needs," said Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

The new banknotes, issued by the Bank of Canada, feature a durable tactile feature that will assist the blind and visually impaired to identify the bill's denomination. The ten-dollar bill is the first of the notes to be issued. The remaining notes -- the \$5, \$20, and \$50 bills, will be introduced at a later date, and will also bear the tactile feature.

"This move sends a clear and welcome message to blind and visually impaired Canadians," added the Chief Commissioner. "These citizens are an integral part of our society, and the release of this banknote is an acknowledgement of that."

A growing number of rulings by the Supreme Court of Canada confirm the duty of employers and service providers to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities to the point of undue hardship. "These rulings have raised awareness overall about the needs of the disabled, and should generate more initiatives of this kind," Mrs. Falardeau-Ramsay concluded.

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